

MEMORANDUM FOR: DDCI

Updates for McFarlane  
book + SSCI breakfast book.

25X1



Date 15 Sep 82

### Lebanon Situation Post-Assassination

1. The following are my initial instinctive reactions to the assassination and probable resultant events. Obviously, returns are not in on many elements in the equation:

- My bet is the dissident Maronite Franjiyyah clan was responsible, and possibly more importantly that the Phalange thinks so. Sulayman Franjiyyah had a personal revenge motive and had sworn to retaliate; access to a building to be used in East Beirut by the Phalange leader would be easiest for a Maronite, difficult for a Muslim or Palestinian; there are morning reports of Phalange-Franjiyyah fighting in the northern areas. The Syrians, allies of Franjiyyah, would have every reason to tacitly accept the assassination. Finally, Franjiyyah himself has personally killed his enemies in the past.
- Two obvious successors would be Bashir's slightly effete but philosophical brother Amin and Camille Chamoun. Both would be more acceptable to the moderate Muslim opposition than Bashir, despite their past anti-Muslim activity during the civil war. Of the two, Chamoun is far tougher and wily, but old. I believe either would be acceptable to the Israelis.
- Despite obvious problems among moderate Muslims and in its possible effect on the electoral process, the IDF advance into West Beirut may have some advantages, since it has occurred after the Palestinian withdrawal: it prevents the fighting in the area from getting out of control given overwhelming Israeli/Maronite strength; it prevents a revenge massacre by the Maronites of the Muslim militias; it probably will bring about disarmament of the leftist Muslim militias which otherwise would be difficult indeed.
- I do not see the events in Beirut by themselves leading to widespread fighting elsewhere except in the Franjiyyah areas.

2. In summary, the situation does not seem to be out of control. It may, however, encourage the impulses of those in the Maronite community who would settle for a new Maronite dominated truncated state allied to Israel, with few ties to the Arab world.

3. Finally, it will not be lost on Arabs elsewhere that every leader who has come close to a rapprochement with the Israelis -- ex-Jordanian King Abdullah, Sadat, and now Bashir -- has been assassinated.

4. Attached is an up-to-date summary of the situation prepared by NESA/DDI.

25X1

NIO/NESA